



NORMAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
4649 Hawley Boulevard San Diego, CA. 92116

Meeting Minutes – December 5th, 2017

Meeting Called to order at 6pm by Chair Jim Baross

Board Attendance (x means “present”):

X	Gary Weber	X	Nancy Lawler	X	Mark Lawler (in at 6:08)
X	Bill Conway (in at 6:28)	X	Ralph Enriquez		Scott Kessler
X	Jim Baross (C)	X	Ryan Zellers (in at 6:16)	X	Joseph Fombon (VC) (in at 6:16)
X	Caroline McKeown (T)	X	Dan Soderberg		Khalisa Bolling
X	Rose Kelly	X	Thomas Lovell	X	Adam Deutsch (S)

C=Chair; VC= Vice Chair; T= Treasurer; S=Secretary

Administration Items

1. **Call to Order:** Board introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda Setting:** Items might be taken out of order.
3. **Approval of Last Month’s Minutes:** Adam distributed the minutes from November 7th to the board prior to this meeting, and took feedback via email, shaped the commentary into a new draft, and shared them again prior to tonight. **M/S: Caroline/Dan. All approved.**
4. **Treasurer Report:** Total at \$1956.73 in our account. We’ll have an additional \$500 operating expenses for 2018, which are not part of this total. As per approval last month, more pint glasses will be ordered, in addition to coffee mugs. **M/S: Thomas/Dan. All approved.**

Communications

5. **Reports from Representatives:**
 - i. **San Diego Unified: Samer Nuji:** There’s going to be a meeting to review the joint use agreement with the community and NH Elementary to make sure that the gates are unlocked when the school is not in session.
 - ii. **Jenny Hall from SDPD:** Greeted all with holiday seasonal cheer, and new year, as we won’t see her until next year. Homelessness is an

issues of ongoing discussion, but efforts have been made to focus on criminal activity in the parks. It's recommended that when people call anything in that they're descriptive, so police have details to use to review various situations. 619-531-2000, or 911 for emergencies. Staffing seems to be up in the PD, so hopefully the wait time won't be too long for nonemergency calls.

Gerald asked about a new sign that was posted in the park areas about possessions, and if they obstruct the sidewalks, encroaching right of way, that's a violation. He also asked about possible fire hazards in the canyons.

Jeff Brooker is also here from the City Attorney's office. He focuses on chronic issues with repeat offenders to try to stop a "revolving door" with police arrests/releases. He's going to try to attend more regularly.

Gary reported a canyon dweller on Caltrans land down at the back of his property. He's scared of canyon fires, and wants to know why they need to get eviction notices. Brooker recounted details from a lawsuit years ago that prohibits SDPD from taking someone's stuff.

John Hartley is afraid that someone is going to burn down the Mock Building in Ward Canyon Park. Officer Hall recommended reporting it, if he sees people doing things that might start a fire in the park.

A resident asked about more patrolling/beat police. Officer Hall said the walking team is in other areas, and there's more patrolling in this area than some might see. They're trying. He also asked about how the 7-11 owner seems to prohibit the staff from reporting homeless issues in the store, so people are just stealing things.

Michael Chandler has concerns about safety in the canyons. He's been reporting an ongoing issue, and it was resolved fairly quickly, so he's grateful for that.

Brett from Ward's office reported that the council reported a pay raise for officers. It was a unanimous vote across the board.

- iii. **Brett Weise from Chris Ward's Office:** Again, the council voted to increase page to SDPD. They also re-elected Myrtle Cole again for Council President. She'll be assigning committee positions next week. **16th and Newton** has a new tent for homeless people to stay in. Two more are still going up and should be open by early January. Each tent is intended to help different populations.

There's a vote next week for 12/12 10am about short-term rentals. It's going to be a long meeting, so bring a snack if you plan to attend.

Update on Community Choice (we supported Community Choice in a vote earlier this year): the mayor requested a Business Plan, so that's progress. The vote could come in early next year.

Meanwhile, regarding item 10, about the 40th/ECB. There's a meeting on 12/12 about that with the mayor's office. Wise present out letter, as well as others, and District 9 will also be there to participate in the discussion, so hopefully the city won't just sell that land to the highest bidder.

- iv. **Javier Gomez from Assembly Member Todd Gloria's Office:** He passed out the 2017 Legislative Updates. They're also having a holiday event on 12/19 5:30, at 1350 Front St. on the 6th Floor. Everyone is welcome and they're taking donations for the Alpha Projects.

There's been swift response to the fires in the Ventura area, and the state is responding.

Covered California registration ends on 12/15 for January 1st coverage, so please make sure people know about that.

Alison Flynn wanted to thank Todd Gloria for correcting AB 228, which restricted her business because of flaws in that original legislation.

That leads to another point: they're taking new suggestions about legislation for the next session, so if there's something you think there ought to be a law about ("Mr. Bones: there is") contact them!

- v. **Alison Flynn from AABA:** There was a presentation on alley rejuvenation/place-making projections in the area that they're reviewing. There's also been an update to tree handling, and there's now a database and app for review trees along the Avenue. Liz Studabaker (from the city, talking to the AABA) wants us to know that if a community member makes community garden space on their property, they can get a tax credit from the city.
- vi. **Bob Keiser from the Adams Ave. Rec Council:** There'll be a meeting tomorrow at city hall at 1pm about the fate of Rec Councils. He won't be there, but hopes others will go and support the Rec Councils.

- vii. **Norma Stafford from the NH Urban Arts Council:** They're excited about the alley place-making plan Alison discussed. They're looking for more artists and proposals for neighborhood projects.

They're also trying to spruce up the old bridge garden near 805.

Meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday from 6-8pm at the Rec Center.

- viii. **"Safe Neighborhoods" (which seems to be two guys in the park):** Oscar Pedilla told us how long he's been around. He repeated information given by the police, and tried to hand out a flier that is full of a number of dangerous and problematic recommendations, for example, to "report activity, big or small to the SDPD as suspicious activity...to Emergency #911." Immediately after that on the flier, it says that "Non-emergency calls for suspicious activity call: 519-531-2000," but they probably mean 619, since 519 is for Ontario.

He also promoted the GetItDone app, but as a tool on the city website, rather than the app. He printed his emails from using it. Gerald updated how often he uses it, and Pedilla was shocked (shocked, I tell you) by the lack of response Gerald has gotten to pothole and other road reports.

The GetItDone app is a service of the City of San Diego, and is not associated with any neighborhood groups.

It is not clear where or when they meet, nor how one becomes a member of this group.

- ix. Caroline updated the 12/12 5:30 pm event for the Community Associate neighborhood tour.

- 6. **Communications from Web/Social Media/Other sources:** Same as past months, with complaints about stolen packages, and issues with homeless people in various areas of the neighborhood.

- 7. **Non-agenda Public Comment (may be limited to 2 minutes each):**

- i. David Baran is concerned about a project on 39th St. (I believe it's the home we approved two months ago). He reported issues with narrow streets and landslides in the past. The board was able to recommend possible next steps.
- ii. John Hartley wants to hand out his petition to "keep the police in" the Mock Building. This is a petition that calls for an action specifically rejected by the NHCPG in previous months, and one that does not support the position the NHCGP has taken regarding that building.

Discussion Item:

8. SANDAG reporting on plans for Central Ave Bikeway running a little over one mile, north-south, from Adams to Landis on Terrace and Central. All east of SR-15. – Chris C. A presentation was made. (Link to it)

This project is not actually in Normal Heights, but in Kensington.

Lots of details about what happens at various intersections.

For full details:

<http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com/RegionalBikeProjects/CentralAvenue.aspx>

Gary would love for the regional bike plan to include benefits directly to Normal Heights, like in Ward Canyon Park, rather than just surrounding neighborhoods.

Bill mentioned the SDSU proposal for the stadium land, to tell them we want a bridge to our neighborhood.

Earlene asked about funding for the setup of 40th and Adams. Gary clarified that the funding was used for what is there now, and we didn't get the embellishments that Kensington typically gets on projects in that neighborhood.

Action Items

9. To what uses might we apply our NHCPG Funds? Request received from Normal Heights Urban Art group, and Little League. Other "brain-stormed" ideas received so far include: NH Library professional design, Dog droppings dispensers along Ave. Solar Trash and Recyclables containers, Supporting "Block Watch" programs, Community planning workshop/social gathering, Commemorative plaque re 1985 fire....

Caroline and Jim reviewed the funding at hand. Caroline pointed out that until we cover the expenses from ordering the new glasses and mugs, we don't have substantial funding for new commitments. Joseph and Caroline expressed reservations about committing funds at this point, and Jim suggested this just for brainstorming.

Ralph and Thomas support donating money to the Mid-City Little League, preferably by January when they start their new season.

Jim asked what kinds of funds the Arts Council would need, and they need a lot more than we can provide, but some seed money for planning would be helpful.

Ryan mentioned an "adopt a family" program that we might be able to participate in. Maybe we can prioritize that for next year as a plan.

Michael would like reinvestment in more products to build up a larger pool of funds.

Information/Discussion Items

10. Discussion regarding the cost of implementing the various community plan/CIP item recommendations, and what funding sources are available to address them. - Gary Weber: Gary wants to remind us that we're here to implement the Mid-City Plan, which calls for a number of things that require lots of money, and it would be great if we could focus on getting the resources to do those things. He's not sure what we're doing here otherwise.

Someone asked about a cap on the I-15 freeway. Though it was constructed to have a cap from Adams to Monroe, the District Councilman at the time, one John Hartley, voted against that phase of construction. Gary said that the cost at this point would be something like \$100million dollars. (Do we have a link to that?)

11. "Walking School Bus" safety for children. – Rose K is interested in starting a plan to get that done. Rose explained it as a chaperoned walk parents take with children around the neighborhood along a path so children are walking to and from school together.

Ryan explained that there's planning staff at his transit firm about having an open house soon to discuss this with the neighborhood. They're happy to help in a pro bono capacity to get this started.

Committee and Ad Hoc Group Reports

12. Community Planners Committee – Jim B. (did not attend). Jim mentioned that he'd like us to stay up on changes happening, especially with the vacation rentals.
Adam asked about changes to variances on the sides of properties.
Carline said that the email from Jim went out way too late to have representation at the meeting, and asked about getting more notice if that comes up.
13. Properties reviewed for historical significance - **4511 - 4517 34TH Street**, 5051 Hawley Blvd., 5037 Hawley St., 3594 Adams Ave. Caroline asked if she can take over the getting the notice about these to expedite our responses. Gary wants to know what will happen to these properties; Caroline said we can check the DSD website, but it doesn't always have the data we'd like. As far as these properties go, 3594 Adams should be preserved because it's a fairly well preserved and unchanged Craftsman home. It's going to be restored as a real estate office. Dan explained the Mills Act to the crowd.
14. Project Review Committee – no new projects requiring review
15. Transportation/Traffic Calming – Ryan has nothing to report.
16. NH Canyons, developing a Friends of group? Michael Chandler is interested in that. Jim welcomes him to that, and we'll also get the background on what's been done already about a project.
17. NH Library - Ralph E: the committee met, and there's nothing to report, but a new meeting is on 12/9 at 10am at Ward Canyon Park near the basketball courts. Caroline has resources to share about that project.

Meeting ended 7:52 pm

Anticipated/Requested Future Agenda Items



Help keep Normal Heights safe - Turn your porch light on!

Agenda order and timing are approximate and subject to change. This information is available in alternative formats (sign language, oral interpreter, and/or Assistive Listening Device). To request an alternative format, call 619-533-3650 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. If you have questions concerning the NHCPG, please express them at the meeting or contact the NHCPG Chair, Jim Baross, at jimbaross@cox.net or 619-280-6908, or the City of San Diego Associate Planner, Naomi Siodmok at NSiodmok@sandiego.gov or 619-446-5064.

Past Agendas and Minutes are available at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/normalheights/agendas.shtml>

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